

Record

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CARRIER ROUTE

SINCE 1877
JANUARY 29, 1998

VOL. 121

No. 50

Southern Baptist aid arrives in N. Korea

PYONGYANG, North Korea (BP) — About 114 tons of aid from Southern Baptists — including some 70,000 children's coats donated between Thanksgiving and Christmas — arrived in Pyongyang, the capital city of North Korea, late on Jan. 18.

Borne on the world's largest air cargo plane, the aid was unloaded immediately. Coats were distributed to children whom officials feared would freeze to death this winter without protection from bitter temperatures sometimes dipping to four degrees below zero.

Because of increased giving to Southern Baptist human needs funds — including special gifts of \$70,000 from Texas Baptist Men and \$25,000 from the Georgia Baptist Convention — the International Mission Board (IMB) bought 25,000 additional children's coats from Asia and began shipping them into North Korea, said Bill Cashion, IMB consultant for human needs.

Cashion was part of a Southern Baptist delegation that arrived in Pyongyang Jan. 12 to meet with North Korean officials and was still in the country when the aid shipment arrived. He spent one full day helping deliver coats to needy children before returning to the United States.

He saw tall skyscrapers lit by candles and without heat. In one



BAPTISTS RESPOND — Workers in Houston load aid onto an Antonov AN-124 chartered by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to airlift 114 tons of children's coats, medicines, vitamins, and food to North Korea. The aid arrived in mid-January and was distributed immediately. (BP photo by Terry McMahon)

bitter-cold schoolroom he visited, he shot videotape of schoolchildren waving and greeting him. As soon as he put down the camera, the entire group began hacking and coughing. "The coats and medicines we are bringing will literally save these children's lives," he said.

The IMB chartered a Ukrainian-built Antonov AN-124, formerly designed as a Soviet military craft, to airlift the coats plus 10 tons of antibiotics, anti-diarrhea medicine and vitamins, 21 tons of corn, and 39 tons (2 million servings) of dehydrated soup mix.

More than 40,000 coats were collected during the first wave of the effort, which ended just

before Christmas. When IMB learned it could not transport the coats into North Korea as quickly as hoped, Southern Baptist churches were asked to extend their collection time through Dec. 29.

They sent the coats to temporary centers set up around the country, which in turn shipped them to Houston, headquarters for United States operation of the Antonov.

Flooding and other natural disasters in recent years devastated farmland and triggered a catastrophic food shortage in North Korea, sending the country into an economic tailspin

and leaving hundreds of thousands of people teetering on the brink of starvation. Many people are too weak to resist sickness.

Don and Barbara Rhoads, of Hollister, Mo., heard the voice of God stirring their hearts last spring.

"I had seen a program on volunteerism and wanted to do something," Don Rhoads recalled.

"We just felt the Lord leading us to buy children's coats. We didn't know what we were going to do with them; we just felt led to buy them."

"We realize this is why we were collecting them," Barbara Rhoads said. "I just know in my heart that this is something (God) wanted us to do."

Coats came in boxes and bags from 37 states, including from as far away as Alaska. Another shipment was sent airmail from Canada.

In meetings with North Korean officials, Cashion agreed to future involvement in the country, including sending a friendship basketball team of high school players to tour the country and schedule games; collecting 80,000 more children's coats for next winter; and providing about 6 million pounds of food as part of an 8 million pound shipment of food by boat in April.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

2,000 voices sing out

Scenes from Evang. Conf.

'God With Us'

A shelter from violence

NAMB radio gets top rankings

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — All four radio programs produced by the North American Mission Board rank among the top 10 syndicated religious radio programs — including the number one spot, according to a report in Religious Broadcasting magazine.

Occupying the top slot is "Powerline," a fast-paced program of contemporary music hosted by Jon Rivers. "Country Crossroads" ranks third and features top country hits and interviews with country music artists. In the eighth and ninth spots, respectively, are "MasterControl," a magazine program featuring travel, financial, health and entertainment segments, and "The Baptist Hour," which combines Christian music with teachings by long-time host Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson.

Looking back

10 years ago

At a banquet in Jackson, campaign manager Harry Vickery of Greenville announces the successful completion of The Mississippi Mission, an endowment campaign for Mississippi Baptist institutions. The total in gifts and pledges for the four year campaign stands at \$40,870,000.

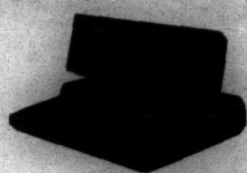
20 years ago

James Beasley is recognized Jan. 15 at First Church, Crystal Springs, on his fifth anniversary as minister of music and youth. Ray Grillot, the church's chairman of deacons, spoke words of appreciation and presented a gift in honor of his service.

50 years ago

On a brisk Sunday morning, James and Hubert Hurt, sons of the B. C. Hurts of Louisville, are set apart for the full work of Christian ministry by First Church, Louisville. After the laying on of hands, both young men are presented with a Bible.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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The government we deserve

We have become a nation that doesn't care much about politics, the pollsters report. Content with booming economic times, secure from enemy attack, and apparently unmoved by the disgraceful conduct of some of our leaders, the pollsters say we have simply detached ourselves from this most crucial aspect of our civic life and our future.

Syndicated columnist George Will asserts that the American people have turned over governance of the country to a "political class" whose overarching goal is to gain re-election while the important business of the country goes unattended.

The endless stream of cacophonous double-talk pouring from the mouths of many of our political leaders contributes in no small degree to confusion among the electorate.

Couple that with the time demands of church/soccer/music/charities/parents/basketball/work/children/band/illness/cooking/holidays/grandchildren/cleaning/school/family/yard/clubs/fundraisers/conferences and a host of other activities in the modern American family, and one can understand the movement toward political detachment as revealed by the polls.

There just doesn't seem to be enough time in our day, and something has to go. Often, that "something" is involvement in our political process.

A people who choose not to get involved in their governance, get the government they deserve. A Christian people who choose not to get involved in their governance get the government they deserve, too.

For too long Christians have been relegated to the back of the American political parade, as if our input in the political processes of our country really doesn't count. A great deal of the fault for that situation rests with Christians themselves.

Have we bought the idea that religion has

no place in the public arena? Are we too intimidated by our "post-Christian" culture to assert our right to be involved in the political marketplace of ideas in this country?

Not too many years ago, a White House spokesman commented, "Yes, we've gotten a lot of calls and letters on that issue, but mostly from Christians." That hurts, but maybe we deserve it.

If you're a Christian and you don't like that attitude, it's high time you did something about it. Don't leave it for others to do. Don't detach. Get involved.

A good place to start is at one of the most basic levels of our governing process — the Mississippi Legislature, which is in session at the present time.

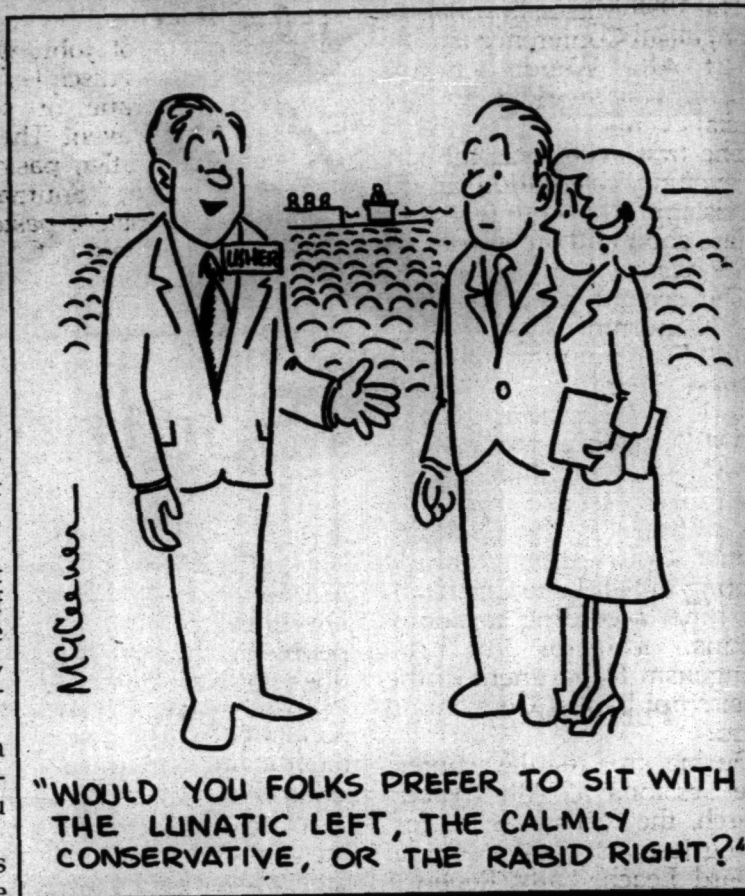
Each of us is represented in the Legislature by a representative and a senator. Do you know who represents you?

Of the thousands of bills and resolutions that will be filed during the 1998 session, there is no doubt that many will personally affect you, your church, your family, and your livelihood. Do you know how to track those bills through the legislative process?

Much time and energy — not to mention taxpayer money — is expended each year on maintaining systems that allow citizens to directly communicate with state lawmakers. Do you know how to get in touch with your legislators?

Legislators welcome input from constituents, so why aren't you talking with them?

Be advised that politics is a not genteel sport. It's a rough-and-tumble proposition.



You may get your feelings hurt when you're ignored. You could be shouted down by opposition forces. You might get flattened by people who are more organized. You'll probably be offended when doors are slammed in your face.

If you want to make a difference, you're just going to have to hang in there. In a state that is overwhelmingly Christian, our voices should count. In a state that is overwhelmingly Southern Baptist, we can make our voices heard. When we don't speak up, other voices fill the vacuum and some are not friendly to our cause.

If we don't get involved, be assured we will get the government we deserve.

GUEST OPINION

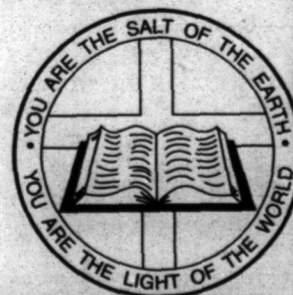


CAC provides vital ministry

By Thomas R. Tutor, interim pastor
Parkway Church, Houston

Christian Action Commission Sunday

February 1, 1998



casino gambling. In another county it was defeated once, but passed on the second vote.

Home life and children have been helped by the work of CAC. Spousal and child abuse are real problems of our day. Conferences have been directed by Jones and Holmes all over our state on how to help solve the problems which are detrimental to our homes.

Premarital pregnancy, and especially teenage pregnancy,

has often been addressed by both staff and trustees of CAC.

Crisis Pregnancy Centers have been encouraged, their establishment supported, people trained to operate them, and materials donated on behalf of Mississippi Baptists.

Through this ministry babies have been saved from abortion and women won to Christ.

The aim of CAC is to "help change people so they can change their world."

Surely this is a worthy goal for us. If this is to be realized, we must improve human relationships.

Jesus, while sharing the parable of the Good Samaritan with Jewish people, made a Samaritan the hero of this parable. He was pointing out the value of every human regardless of his stature in this world.

Alcohol, narcotic, and gambling addictions are problems CAC will continue to address. It is the aim of CAC to help all Mississippians to deal with these problems and to help solve them.

The first year Jones was executive director, 65-75 churches contacted CAC. This past year, 850-900 churches sought the help of Jones, Holmes, Wood, and the special CAC consultants.

Good things are coming from our CAC. I have personally come to love and appreciate the staff for their deep commitment to the cause of Christ in the lives of Mississippi Baptists and in Mississippi.

They need and deserve our prayers and support as they continue this life-changing ministry.

Tutor is retired pastor of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, and former chair of CAC.

'98 Evangelism Conf. features pair of special events

The 1998 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference Jan. 19-20 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson was marked by two special events.

The first event was the Jan. 19 evening celebration at the Mississippi Coliseum featuring a mass choir and orchestra. (See article below.)

The second event was the Jan. 20 morning session when Jimmy Furr from the Interfaith Witness Team of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) made a presentation on witnessing to Mormons.

This was part of a strategy of preparation for the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah this June, according to Sonny Adkins, director of the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

During the regular conference sessions at Alta Woods Church, the focus was on following Jesus' servant example. Richard Leach, Laity Renewal Associate with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) set the tone for the two days of preaching and worship

speaking from the 13th chapter of the Gospel of John where Jesus washed his disciples' feet.

Leach was one of seven speakers for the event. The others were Jim Butler, pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven; Charles Carter, senior pastor of Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham; Jimmy Furr, from the NAMB interfaith witness team; Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary; Luther Price, pastor of Riverside Church, Clarksdale; and Billy Smith, evangelist from Madison.

Butler said his church has Sunday School, evangelism, and a strong worship service, but no Brotherhood, Woman's Missionary Union, or Discipleship Training. When people ask him why his church does not have missions organizations he says, "I'd rather have people knocking on doors than have people talking about missionaries knocking on doors."

Carter spoke twice during the conference. In his first message Carter said he has never known of a growing church with a minister who didn't believe in hell. "Is it cruel that a meteorologist tells the coastal

people a hurricane is on the way?" he asked. Carter urged pastors to warn people that hell is not "degrees Fahrenheit," but a place of "everlasting separation from God."

Kelley also spoke twice. In his first message Kelley encouraged ministers to ask the question, "What am I doing here?" Speaking from 1 Tim. 1:15, Kelley said one of the primary responsibilities of a pastor is to demonstrate God's grace at work in the life of a sinful man.

"One of the most powerful, impactful things you do in front of your church is live; live with the disappointments, conflict, and problems of life. In this you demonstrate that there is hope in Christ," Kelley said.

Price, a Clarksdale pastor and former vocational evangelism, spoke from John 14 about the relationship of Jesus to the Father and to us.

"Biblical Christianity is not just what you believe," Price said. "It is what you are becoming because of what you believe. Biblical salvation is not a commitment of man to God, but a commitment of God to man... Christ in you."

Price challenged believers to accept their responsibility to hear and obey. "Has anyone seen Jesus in you?" he asked.

Evangelist Smith spoke from Genesis 45, urging that we follow Joseph's example.

Smith said an older minister once told him there were three things that could destroy a ministry: women, money, and pride.

"We need to live a life of purity and self-control. If we don't have self control, how can we expect other people to do it?" he said.

Also featured during the evangelism conference were musicians Ronnie Cottingham, music evangelist from Lucedale; Bob Jones, minister of music at Alta Woods church; and Bo Parker, music evangelist from Columbia.

(For photos, please turn to page four of this issue.)



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST Record

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No. 50

'God With Us' features 2,000-voice choir

Mississippi Baptists presented "God With Us: a Gift of Celebration to our Lord and for all people," Jan. 19 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. In a massive display of music, praise, and pageantry, a choir of over 2,000 voices, an orchestra of over 140 instrumentalists, plus soloists and testimonies, led an audience estimated at over 4,000 in worship.

"Music with a message and the powerful testimonies made it a towering spiritual witness to the state," said Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"Above all else, it was worship of our great God who promised that if Jesus were 'lifted up he will draw all men to him.' I could dream of the day when all our meetings would have such spiritual impact and influence, and effect the dream of bringing Mississippi and the world to Jesus," Causey added.

"God With Us" was presented at the

Monday night session of the 1998 State Evangelism Conference. Under the direction of Graham Smith, the choir and orchestra represented 96 different churches in Mississippi, plus several churches from out of state.

Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson served as the narrator. The program featured testimonies by Patsy Bozeman, Alicia and Chip Wilbanks, Teri Oyler, and Steve Jordon.

Attendance was free, as was parking at the state Fair Ground. No offering was taken. From the beginning "God With Us" was planned as a gift to the people of Mississippi from Mississippi Baptist, according to Sonny Adkins, director of the Evangelism Department of the MBCB.

"God With Us" was a joint production of the Evangelism Department and the Church Music Department of the MBCB. It is the result of over 18 months of planning, according to Graham Smith, director of the

Church Music Department.

The production featured the talents of "One Voice," a musical ensemble of the Church Music Department, and the Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra.

The orchestra was organized in 1996 and was premiered at the State Evangelism Conference in January of last year. It is conducted by Bruce Zeiger.

A common thread through each of the four testimonies concerned God's provision during times of difficulty.

Bozeman shared a testimony of the support she and her family received during the illness and death of her husband, Don, pastor of South Side Church in Jackson.

The Wilbanks shared of singing in "God With Us," at their church and shortly thereafter losing their stillborn baby boy, Chase.

Oyler shared a testimony about her struggle with cancer, while Jordon told of the nightmare of losing their 13-year-old daughter, Jennifer.

Each attestation was heart-rending and heart-warming, but gave clear testimony of the power of God with us in times of difficulty. "It is amazing how God can work all things together," one woman said after the performance.

A total of 361 decisions were registered by the use of tear-off tabs on the programs. Ten decisions were professions of faith, with 164 rededications, and 175 commitments to being more active in a local church.

(For more photos, please turn to page five of this issue.)

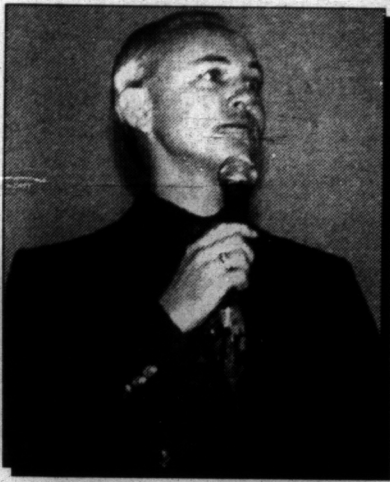


JOYFUL NOISE — Members of the percussion section of the Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra await their cues during the presentation of "God With Us" Jan. 19 in the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, as part of the 1998 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

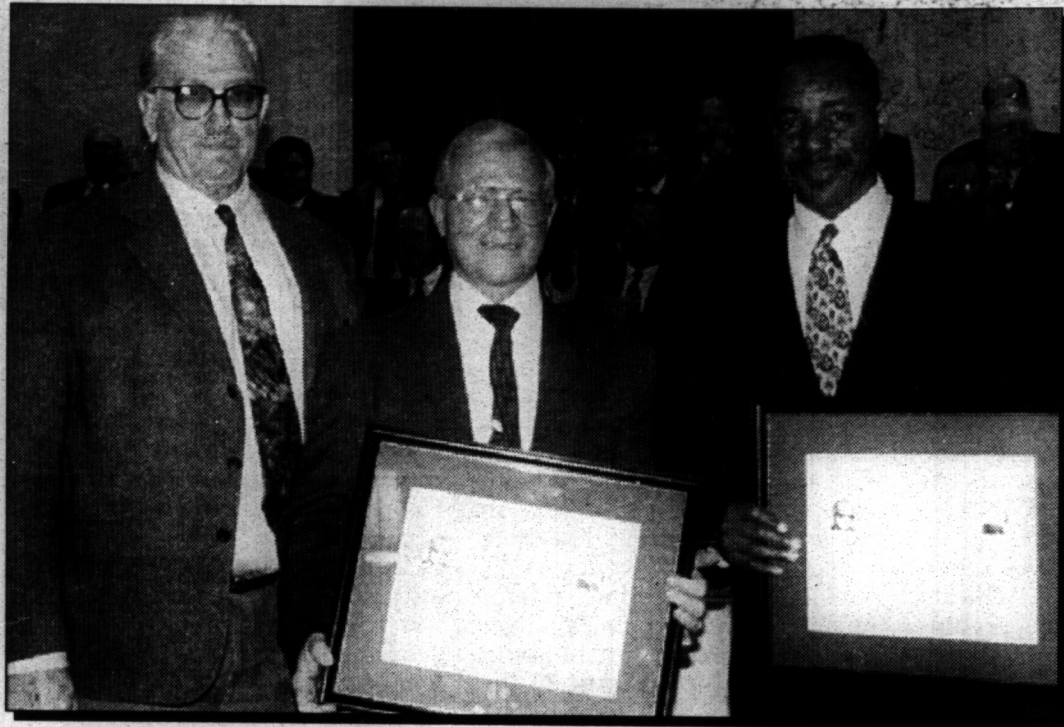


MASS CHOIR — More than 2,000 Mississippi Baptist church choir members packed the choir section of the Mississippi Coliseum Jan. 19 for the performance of "God with Us," during the Jan. 19 evening session of the 1998 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

Scenes from 1998 Evangelism Conference



LEADING MUSIC — Ronnie Cottingham, full-time vocational music evangelist from Lucedale, leads the 1998 Evangelism Conference in worship through music. The conference was held Jan. 19-20 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson. (Photo by Carl M. White)



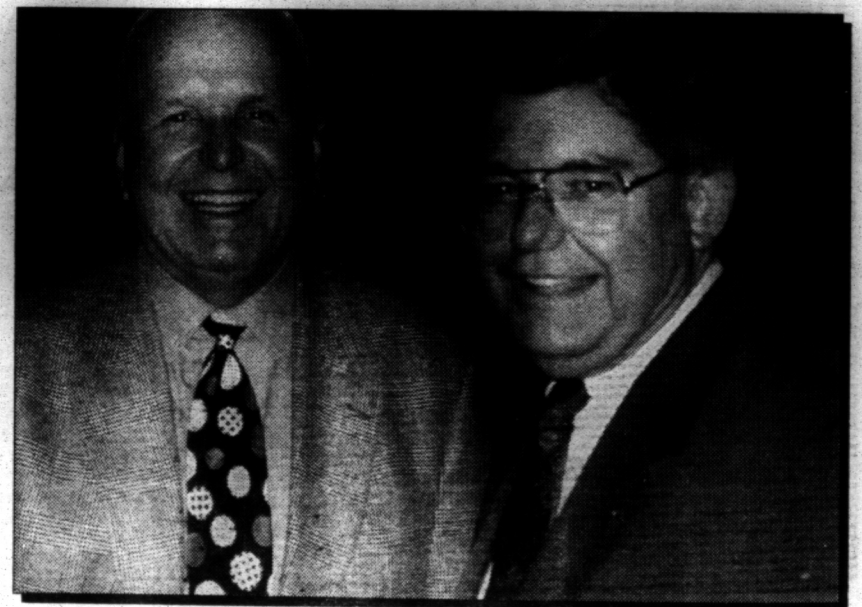
BROWN-DAVIS RECIPIENTS — Recipients of the 1998 Brown-Davis Racial Reconciliation Award presented at the Evangelism Conference were Doug Benedict (middle), director of missions for Lamar Association in Purvis, and Buddy Peters (right), pastor of Gateway Church, Lumberton. Presenting the award was Richard Brogan (left), consultant in the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The award is named in honor of Thomas Benjamin Brown and William Penn Davis, both Mississippi pastors who were leaders in racial reconciliation during the 1960s and 1970s. (Photo by Carl M. White)



BAPTISMS LEADER — Darrin Mechling, (left) minister of evangelism and students at Park Place Church, Brandon, receives a certificate of recognition from Ed Deuschle (right), consultant with the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, during the 1998 Evangelism Conference. Park Place was second in 1997 baptisms, with 236. Other churches recognized were: Trinity, Southaven (244); Colonial Hills, Southaven (228); Crossgates, Brandon (218); Northcrest, Meridian (177); Pass Road, Gulfport (149); First Church, Olive Branch (119); Harmony, Crystal Springs (108); Temple, Hattiesburg (107); and First Church, Richland (105). (Photo by Carl M. White)



COMBE LEADERS — 1998 officers for the Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists (COMBE) are (from left) Candi, Connie, Caren, and Martha Barrow, co-presidents; Ronnie Cottingham, vice-president; and Chester Estes, Jr., secretary/treasurer. (Photo by Carl M. White)



HANDSHAKE AND A SMILE — Charles Carter, (left) senior pastor of Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala., shares a light moment with S. A. (Sonny) Adkins, director of the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Carter was one of the featured speakers at the 1998 Evangelism Conference. (Photo by Carl M. White)



CHURCHMEN PERFORM — The Mississippi Baptist Singing Churchmen, under the direction of Milfred Valentine, lead in worship at the Tuesday evening session of the 1998 Evangelism Conference at Alta Woods Church, Jackson. (Photo by Carl M. White)

'God With Us' celebrated at Miss. Coliseum



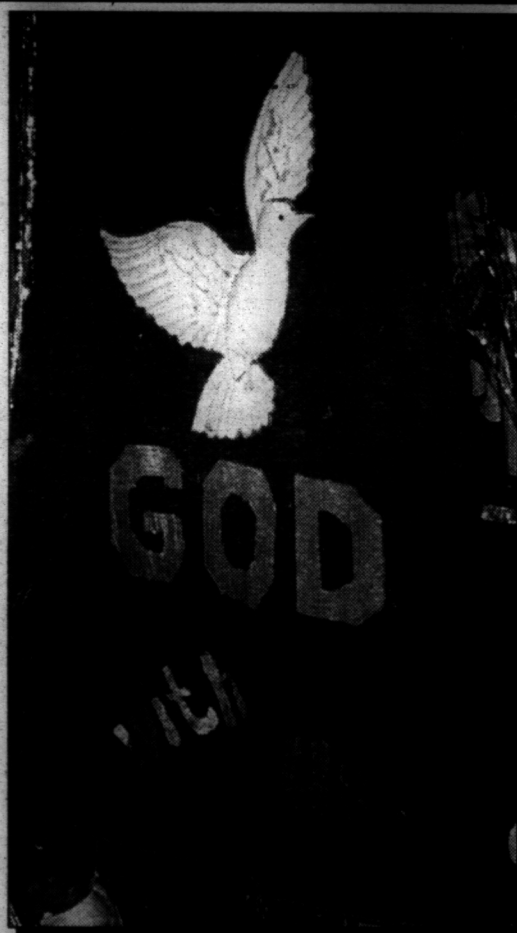
CALL TO CROSS — Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, provided narration during the Jan. 19 presentation of "God With Us." (Photo by Tim Nicholas)



MANY VOICES, ONE MESSAGE — More than 2,000 Mississippi Baptist church choir members packed the choir section of the Mississippi Coliseum Jan. 19 for the performance of "God with Us." (Photo by Tim Nicholas)



MUSICAL PRAISE — Members of the music/drama ensemble One Voice (above photo) served as the praise team for the Jan. 19 presentation of "God With Us," which also included a display of religious banners (above right photo) as part of the program and a 142-piece Mississippi Baptist Symphony orchestra (below right photo). L. Graham Smith (below photo, at right) director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and director of the "God With Us" performance, talks with Don Moen, principal author of "God With Us," who was in Jackson for the performance. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)



TESTIMONY — Chip (left) and Alicia Wilbanks, choir members at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and participants in the "God With Us" mass choir, give their testimony at the Jan. 19 presentation of the Christian musical. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)



'God With Us' tapes now available

VHS-format videotapes of "God With Us," recorded live January 19 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, are available for \$15 each from the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Make checks payable to MBCB. Please specify name, address, city/state, ZIP code, and telephone number. Be sure to mark the front of the envelope "God With Us."

Domestic violence a sad reality in Miss.

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Second in a series



Several months ago Lucy (not her real name) came to the Resource Center Network (RCN) shelter for abused and battered women and children. Here she found safety and freedom.

She came from an abusive marriage where her every action was monitored and controlled. "I was told how long it should take to go shopping, then questioned about everything I bought. When I came here it was like being set free," she said.

John Kendrick, associate director of RCN, points out that Lucy has also found another kind of freedom — a spiritual freedom that comes from knowing the Lord.

Now Lucy and her preschool child live at the shelter, where she serves as the resident assistant.

"When new clients arrive I can always tell the difference between a woman who is just trying to get someone's attention and the one who has really

been abused," she said.

A typical room at the shelter is about 12 x 14 and consists of maybe a bunk bed, a closet, and a chest of drawers. Everyone shares cooking and cleaning duties. Built by volunteer labor from a local Baptist association and furnished by donations, the shelter is nice but far from impressive.

"The ones just trying to get someone's attention immediately start complaining about things. The ones who have really known abuse think this is a castle. They are free," Lucy said.

Lucy's story could be repeated 3000 times. That's the number of families sheltered by RCN since 1990, according to Kendrick, a Lamar County native and bivocational pastor. He has been working at RCN for three years.

"I was working with a transport company in Texas and was transferred here. Then I was downsized," he said.

He had been working as a volunteer at RCN and it soon developed into a full-time job. His primary responsibility is fund raising.

Kendrick also serves as a consultant on family abuse and violence for the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The problem is one of education, and the cure one of re-education. "We have to teach that it is not OK to hurt anybody or for anybody to hurt you," he said.

"We have raised the most violent generation there has ever been. We have adult women — poor to affluent — who have lived their entire lives with these values and who know nothing else but to teach it to their children. We have to break this cycle," Kendrick said.

For more information about domestic violence contact Beth Holmes at the Christian Action

Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Kendrick can be contacted at the Resource Center Network, P. O. Box 6302, Pearl, MS 39288-6302. Telephone: (601) 932-4198, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 266-4198.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ITS TOLL

- ◆ Half of all homicide victims are killed by people they know.
- ◆ As many as one-fourth of all American families are affected by domestic violence.
- ◆ Six out of ten couples will experience violence at some time during their marriages.
- ◆ Battering is the single most common form of injury to women in the USA, more common than automobile accidents, muggings, and stranger rapes combined.
- ◆ Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women age 15-44.
- ◆ 1/3 of women who are abuse victims, abuse.
- ◆ A woman is battered every nine seconds in this country.
- ◆ Approximately 1/3 of pregnant women are abused.
- ◆ Six million women are assaulted by their partners each year.
- ◆ 22-35% of women who go to an emergency room are there because of ongoing abuse.
- ◆ Abuse is not reported to police 43% of the time.
- ◆ In the U.S., there are over 3,800 shelters for abused and homeless animals; however there are only 1500 shelter programs for battered women and children.

Source: Violence in Society Resources for Help
Compiled by Hope Eavenson

THE TRUTH ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is not...

- ◆ caused by alcohol or drug abuse.
- ◆ caused by anger.
- ◆ caused by stress.
- ◆ caused by the victim's behavior or by the relationship.
- ◆ caused by genetics or illness.

Domestic violence is...

- ◆ a learned behavior, acquired over time through multiple observations and negative interactions with individuals.
- ◆ universal, having no cultural or ethnic identity, but occurring in every cultural, racial, and economic group in society.
- ◆ recurring, with people carrying into adulthood the patterns learned in childhood, and with lasting effects on the women, children, and family unit.

Source: Violence in Society Resources for Help
Compiled by Hope Eavenson

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LECTURES ON BIBLICAL PREACHING



This portrayal of Paul preaching to learned Greeks on Mars Hill by artist Petru Botezatu is one of many murals in the Beeson Divinity Chapel.



John Piper

John Piper will present the 1998 William E. Conger, Jr., Lecture on Biblical Preaching at Beeson Divinity School. Piper, senior pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is an accomplished preacher, author, and teacher.

The mission of Beeson Divinity School is to prepare pastors who can preach the Gospel to the world. The William E. Conger, Jr., Lectures on Biblical Preaching are presented to enlighten the preacher's skill, but above all, to stir the preacher's soul.

For more information on the Conger Lectures on Biblical Preaching or Beeson Divinity School, please call Gregg Morrison at 1-800-888-8266.

CONGER Lecture Series
February 24-26 at 11:00 a.m.
in the Beeson Divinity Chapel
Discussion Luncheon
(Reservations Necessary) immediately following Wednesday's lecture
(February 25, 1998) in the Student Commons at Divinity Hall.



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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 29, 1998

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

Toward a Growing Marriage seminar to be held

A practical seminar for Christian couples – married or thinking about getting married – who want to have God's best in marriage, will take place in Jackson on Feb. 20-21, 1998, at Broadmoor Baptist church.

The seminar, entitled "Toward a Growing Marriage," will be led by Gary Chapman, author of the best-selling book, "The Five Love Languages," and a book with the same title as the seminar.

Co-sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Discipleship and Family Ministry Department and the Baptist Sunday School Board, the program will offer practical ways to make good marriages better and how to help friends and family members who are

experiencing marital stress.

Topics include how to communicate in the midst of conflict, how to avoid financial bondage, how to make sex a mutual joy, and how to rekindle love or keep it alive.

The seminar begins on Friday evening at 7, and continues on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Everyone is asked to bring a sack lunch on Saturday.

Chapman is director of adult ministries at Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Early registration saves money at \$35 for individuals; \$65 for married or engaged couples. At the door the cost is \$45 for individuals; \$75 for couples.

a Growing Marriage

...And they will become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

SEMINAR COST

	Individual	Engaged or Married Couple
Early Registration Fee:	\$35	\$65
Registration Fee:	\$45	\$75

REGISTRATION

Return registration form to your seminar coordinator or mail to: Chapman Seminars

Post Office Box 24001 • Nashville, TN 37203.

For more information or to register call 800/254-2022.

Co-sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____

CHURCH GROUP _____

CIRCLE AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$65 FOR COUPLE \$35 FOR INDIVIDUAL
PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

The correct time for
Area 1 Keyboard Festival at
Colonial Hills Baptist Church,
Southaven,
is 9:30 a.m.-Noon
on Saturday, January 31, 1998.

Divorce/Single Parenting Conferences and Retreats

Divorce Retreat, March 13-14, Camp Wesley Place, Collins
Call Dot Day at 601-294-5336 for more information.

Divorce/Single Parent Conference, Monday 30, Emerald, Collins
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Led by Jim Doremus, minister with singles, FBC, Jackson
Call 601-294-5336

Single Adult Retreat, Memorial Day Weekend, May 23-25
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Saturday, June 27 at Parkway BC, Clinton, 8:00-8:45 p.m.
Divorce Conference, led by Jim Doremus,
minister with singles, FBC, Jackson
Single Parenting Conference, led by
James Haynes, minister with singles, FBC, Biloxi

Family Week, July 4-8, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Single Parenting, led by James Haynes

Call Glenn Shows, singles consultant at 1-800-748-1654 or 968-3800 in
Jackson for more information on these conferences and retreats.

Registration Form
GA Father/Daughter Overnight – Camp Garaywa
April 17-18, 1998
Cost: \$23 per person
Deadline: Monday, April 13, 1998

Begins Friday at 5 p.m. and ends Saturday at noon.



Father's Name _____ Daughter's Name _____
 Address _____ Phone Number _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 In case of emergency contact/phone number _____ / _____
 Church Name _____ Association _____

Amount Enclosed: \$23 x No. of persons _____ = \$ _____ (total)

Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Mail to: WMU GA Father/Daughter Overnight, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530



Registration Form
GA Mother/Daughter Overnight (grades 1-6) – Camp Garaywa
March 20-21, 1998
Cost: \$23 per person
Deadline: Monday, March 16, 1998

Begins Friday at 5 p.m. and ends Saturday at noon.

Mother's Name _____ Daughter's Name _____
 Address _____ Phone Number _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 In case of emergency contact/phone number _____ / _____
 Church Name _____ Association _____

Amount Enclosed: \$23 x No. of persons _____ = \$ _____ (total)

Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Mail to: WMU GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

GA Summer Camp Counselors Needed!

Camp Garaywa needs female college students to serve as counselors for GA Camp and to make a difference for eternity. A potential counselor must have completed the freshman year of college and be available for the following dates of camp:

1998 GA SUMMER CAMP DATES

June 1-5
 June 8-12
 June 15-19
 June 22-26
 June 29-July 3
 July 6-10
 July 13-17
 July 20-24



GA's grades 1 and 2 Mother/Daughter Overnight: June 19-20

GA's grades 1-6 Mother/Daughter Overnight: July 10-11

Acteens Camp: July 24-26

If you are interested in serving as a 1998 GA Summer Camp Counselor, call 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 for an application.

Youth Bible Study Forum

Saturday, February 28, 1998

FBC, Gulfport

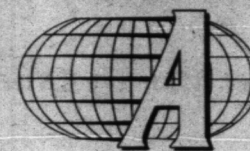
8:30-11:30 a.m.

This unique Forum will provide an opportunity for the youth in our churches to share what's on their minds about Sunday School. We want to hear what they consider to be the strengths, weaknesses, needs, etc., of youth Sunday School today. Representatives from the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department and the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville will be on hand to participate in these discussions. Each church is invited to bring four youth. We hope you will bring a mixture of older youth and younger youth, and a mixture of male and female. Also, we ask that you include two active youth and two who are only "fringely" active. Why only four, you may ask? That's a good question! The purpose of the Forum is to generate meaningful, honest, open, and "serious" discussion. The smaller the number, we feel, the easier this will be to accomplish. There is no charge to participate in the Forum. However, we do ask that you register with the Sunday School Department in advance. Call Mark Lott at 1-800-748-1651 to get more information or to pre-register.



GA/ACTEENS

CAMPUS DAYS



BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

COMPLETED
November 15
11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE

COMPLETED
January 21
3 p.m.-7 p.m.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

February 21
10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Missionaries • Basketball • Music
Cheerleaders • Testimonies.

COST: \$7.50

(includes: basketball game, meal, program, and limited insurance)

REGISTRATION FORM

Church _____ Association _____
Contact Person _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Date of Event _____

Deadline Monday, prior to events

No refunds after deadline, however, substitutions may be made

Make checks payable to **Mississippi Baptist Convention Board** and send to:

GA/Acteens Special Days

Woman's Missionary Union

P. O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Number of attendees _____ x \$7.50 per person = \$ _____ (total enclosed)

STATE-WIDE GROWTH SPIRAL CONFERENCE

February 10, 1998

38th Avenue Baptist Church

Hattiesburg, Miss.

9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Conference Fee: \$5 (includes lunch and program materials)

Conference Leader: Jerri Herring, consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville

Schedule

8:30 Conference Registration/Fellowship

9:00-11:30 Conference

11:30-12:30 Lunch

12:30-2:00 Conference

2:00 Dismiss

Experience Growth Through a Dynamic, Balanced Sunday School Ministry

Growth Spiral Pre-Registration Form

Church Name _____
Complete Church Address (include zip) _____

Name of Person Making Reservation _____

Daytime phone _____

No. of People Attending _____

Mail to: Sunday School Dept., P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Pray this day for...

January 30-February 12, 1998

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

"The privilege of praying and operating in the name of Jesus are the letters of authority pressed into your hand by Christ the King."
- "Built by the Sprit" by Jack Hayford

Christian Action Commission Sunday (Christian Action Commission Emphasis) Praise God that in 1997 the Open Doors literature target for one million Bibles and books distributed inside China was exceeded. Yet we continually hear of severe shortages in the rural areas.

Race Relations Sunday (Christian Action Emphasis). Pray for missionary Polly Scott, who recently was diagnosed with sciatic arthritis. Pray that the medication she has been given will relieve her backaches.

Pray for Cuba. "New believers are added daily to the churches, and the house churches are bursting at the seams," reports a mission leader who often visits Cuba and who wishes to remain anonymous for security reasons. Pastors all over the country report growth.

For VBS Early Bird Clinic; Baptist Building; sponsored by the Sunday School Dept. For African-American Pastor Institute, Grace BC, Tchula, 9th-10th; sponsored by MEAA. Pray that the Walamo people of Ethiopia would be attracted to the Creator God.

Albert and Patricia Billingsley are Mission Service Corps volunteers working with Trinity River Baptist Association in a criminal justice ministry. Pray for success in starting a ministry to prison guards and the staff at three prisons in Dayton, Texas.

For Growth Spiral Conference, 38th Ave. BC, Hattiesburg; sponsored by the SS Dept. Pray for missionaries Billy and Dana Blankenship as they return to Madagascar to begin their second term of service. There is an urgent need to secure housing for them in Ft. Dauphin, where they will begin Tondoy language study.

You may have prayed for a Benin evangelist who recently moved to the Kokoro region of Benin. Now he is having difficulty establishing himself and his family in the area where he has begun a new Bible study group. Pray that the people in Kokoro will become receptive to the gospel.

Pray for wisdom, endurance, health and traveling safety for those working on translating the Bible in Central and Southern Asia. Ask God to facilitate the translation process, enabling those without Christ to read the scriptures in their mother tongue.

For Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association, Hattiesburg, Feb. 5-7; sponsored by MBREA. Several Christians who attend the International BC, Stuttgart, Germany, have unbelieving spouses. Pray that their Christian mates will not give up hope that they will be saved.

Shannon Bettis is a US-2 missionary at Rachel Sims Baptist Mission, New Orleans, LA. Pray that the Lord will bless the ministries at the mission, which include working with children and others in the community.

For Area Keyboard Festival, FBC, Gulfport; sponsored by the Church Music Department. For State Baptist Student Union Retreat; Camp Garaywa, 30th-31st; sponsored by the Student Work Department.

30

For Area Keyboard Festivals: Colonial Hills BC, Southaven; FBC, Greenville; FBC, Vicksburg; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian; sponsored by the Church Music Dept.

31

Ralph Blankenship pastors Craig Baptist Mission in Craig, Alaska. Pray for the congregation as members are in the process of buying land so they can build. Pray that work will be started in Kessen and Myers Church. Pray for a young family from Mississippi that will move to Alaska in June.

There are many congregations in Angola without any Bible-trained leadership. In order for Angola to train enough leaders to reach her people for Christ, theological education must be taken to lay leaders and pastors where they live. Pray that the 19 men who participated in Theological Education by Extension seminars last August will be greatly used by God as they begin teaching.

Smaller Church Sunday School and Discipleship Training Leadership Training Conferences

7-9 p.m.

Locations

March 23

FBC, Lyman, and
Calvary Baptist Church, Greenville

March 24

Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Newton, and
Oakhurst Baptist Church, Clarksdale

This year the Sunday School Department and the Discipleship Training and Family Ministry Department have teamed up to provide training especially for the unique needs of the smaller church. We will be discovering together how the Sunday School and Discipleship ministries of your church work together to accomplish the Great Commission. We will also provide training from 7 to 9 p.m. in how to teach your age group and how to handle those unique needs of the smaller church. No registration is required. Conferences will be provided in each of the following groups:

► Preschool Leaders (SS/DT)

► Children's Leaders (SS/DT)

► Youth Leaders (SS/DT)

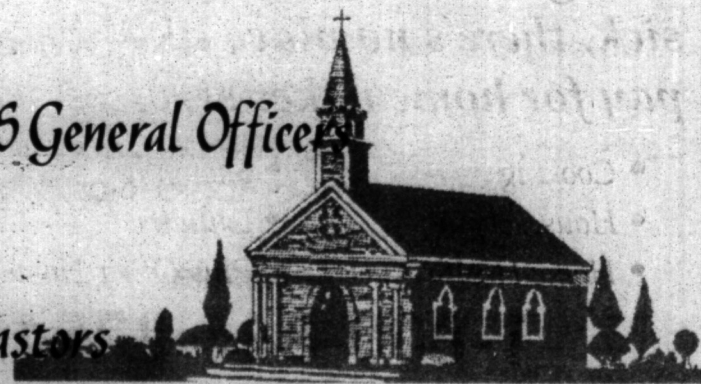
► Adult SS Leaders

► Adult DT Leaders

► SS General Officers

► DT General Officers

► Pastors



HOUSE TOPS

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Norman Rester, 41, a native of Hancock County, died instantly in a car wreck near Picayune on Jan. 5. He was a minister of music for 14 years. Churches he served in Mississippi were New Hope, Gulfport; Agricola, Agricola; Bethel, Crossroads; and Union,



Rester

Caesar. Rester was a lifetime member of Union Church, Picayune. Survivors include Tracy Weems Rester, his wife of 16 years; mother, Linda Lee Rester Foulon; sons, Zachary and Luke, all of Picayune; brothers, Eric Rester of Picayune and Andy Rester of Colorado Springs, Colo.; and a sister, Dolly Lee of Picayune.

John H. Pace Jr., pastor of Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove, has been invited to deliver the opening prayer at the Jan. 29 session of the Mississippi State Senate. Pace is a graduate of North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C., and New Orleans Seminary.

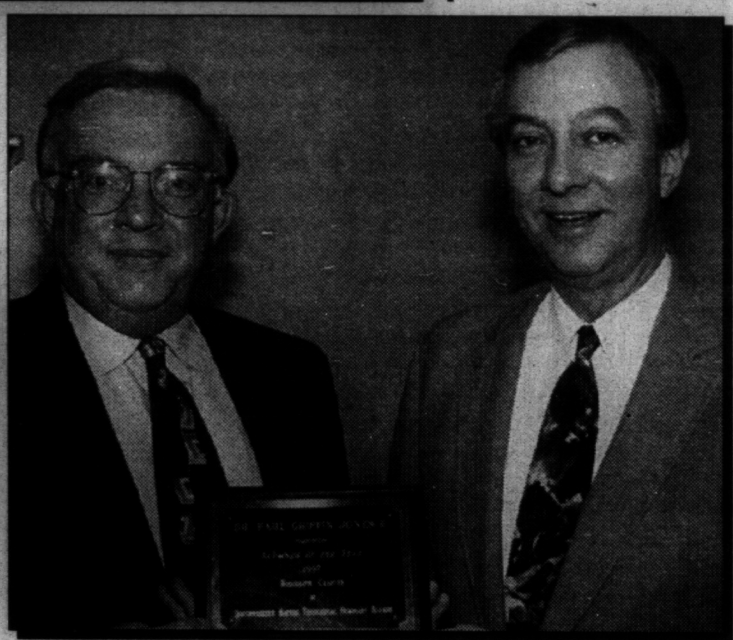
The Mississippi arm of **Romanian-American**

Missions, a missions organization bringing together Great Commission Christians, churches, and groups to reach Romanians with the Gospel, is holding its annual banquet at 7:00 p.m., Friday, Jan. 30, 1998 at First Church, Brandon. Tickets are \$10.

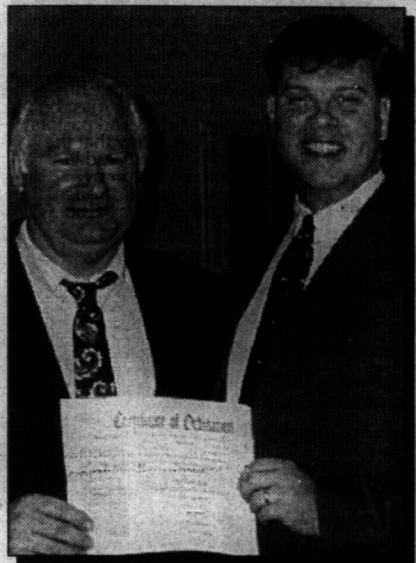
Cristi Chivu, a Romanian native and student at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY is the featured speaker. For more information contact Wayne Ball at (601) 825-3365 or (601) 825-7011.



Chivu



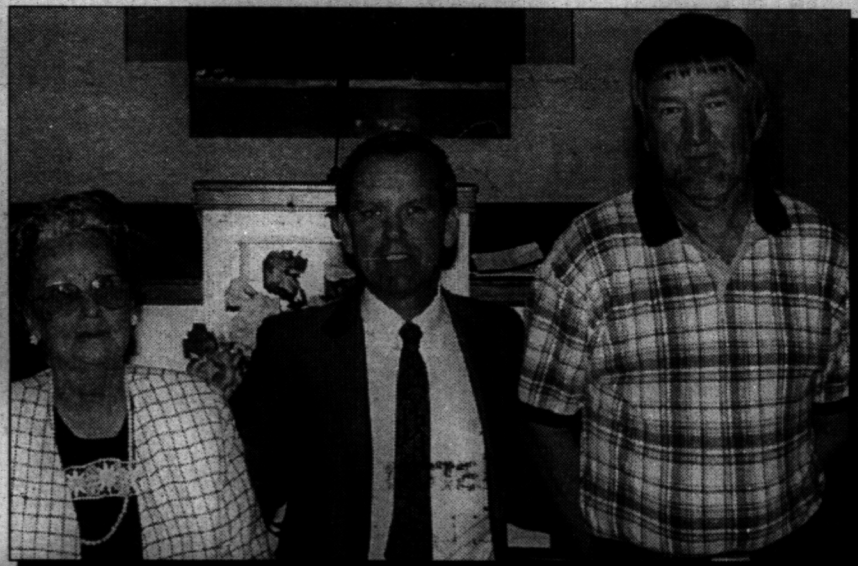
Paul Jones, executive-director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, recently was honored by the Mississippi Chapter of the Southwestern Seminary Alumni Association as Alumnus of the Year. The award was presented at a luncheon held at Calvary Church, Jackson, during the annual meeting of the alumni. Pictured presenting the award to Jones (left) is Lew King, president of the Mississippi Chapter of Southwestern Seminary Alumni.



Bigbee Church, Amory, recently ordained **Scott Carter** to the gospel ministry. Carter, youth minister, is also in the ministry of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Tommy Whaley is pastor.



Eastview Church, Laurel, licensed **Scott Stringer** to the ministry on Dec. 21. Stringer is a graduate of Northeast Jones High School, Jones County Junior College, and is currently a junior at Liberty University. He is the son of Trevor and Mary Jo Stringer of Laurel. Stringer is pictured receiving his certificate from Bob Scott, his pastor.



Harmony Church, Union County, honored Lillie Belle Gregory and Wayne Baggett for 26 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. Pictured (from left) are Gregory; Bobby Pickett, Sunday School director, and Baggett.

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BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

William Carey College guitar students received awards at the Mississippi Music Teachers' Association held recently in Cleveland. Nathan Gibson of

Leakesville received the first place award; Patrick Tague of Gulfport placed second and Marcus Lang of Hattiesburg placed third in the Freshman-Sophomore Division. In the Junior-Senior Division, Richard Neal of Gulfport placed second and Todd DuBose of Laurel placed third. Miroslav Loncar, assistant professor of music and artist in residence, directed the students.

The Department of Music at Mississippi College will present the Chamber Choir Mid-Winter Concert on Feb. 3 at 8:15 p.m. in Provine Chapel.

For additional information, call (601) 925-3440.

Twenty-one area students participated in the fifth annual Aguado Guitar Club/William Carey College Classic Guitar Competition held recently on the Hattiesburg campus. The competition was sponsored in part by Mel Bay Publishing and D'Addario Strings. For information about the Aguado Guitar Club, call 268-0627.

Rossini's The Barber of Seville, a production by The National Opera Company of Raleigh, N.C., will be presented at Blue Mountain College (BMC) in Garrett Auditorium on Jan 29 at 7:30 p.m. As part of an endowed lyceum concert, BMC is able to offer this production with free attendance for the public. For further information, call (601) 685-4771.

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Corrections

The death of Eugene Roberts of Brookhaven was printed in the issue of Jan. 22. The article inadvertently omitted that Roberts also graduated from Mississippi College.

In the Jan. 8 issue, Steven Smith, College Minister at First Church, Jackson, was incorrectly identified as college minister at First Church, Clinton.

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Blackaby set to keynote Laurel conference

Henry Blackaby, co-author of the best-selling "Experiencing God" study series, will keynote an Experiencing God Through Revival regional conference Feb. 26-28 at First Church, Laurel.



Blackaby

"We are very fortunate to have this opportunity to host a conference on the vital topic of revival and spiritual awakening, with this quality of leadership," said Allan Nix, director of missions for Jones Association, which is sponsoring the conference along with the Office of Prayer and Spiritual Awakening (OPSA) at the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Atlanta.

Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening at NAMB, explained the regional conferences have special purposes. Only six are scheduled across the country during 1998.

"Our regional conferences on prayer,

revival, and spiritual awakening always fill our hearts with great anticipation that 'times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord' (Acts 3:19).

"In the general sessions, we will be seeking his person, his purposes, and his ways. God is seeking to revive his people, and through us redeem our nation and touch our broken world with his salvation," he said.

The conference schedule begins with a noon luncheon on Feb. 26 for ministers of all denominations and their wives, followed by a ministers/wives conference from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

There is no charge for the ministers/wives luncheon and the conference. Pre-registration is urged in order to make adequate preparations.

The first general session will meet from 7-9 p.m. on Feb. 26. The second general session will meet from 9 a.m.-12 noon on Feb. 27.

Following lunch on Feb. 27, participants will be able to choose from a number of seminars that will run from 1:30-2:45 p.m. and 3:15-4:30 p.m.

Seminar titles and leaders include:

— "Fresh Encounter," led by Ron Owens, an OPSA associate.

— "The Word for the Wise," led by Kerry L. Skinner, an OPSA associate.

— "Prayer for Revival and Spiritual Awakening," led by Conrad Keil, director of the NAMB intercessory prayer program.

— "The Man God Uses," led by Sam House, an OPSA associate.

— "Trusting God — A Women's Seminar," led by Elaine Skinner, wife of Kerry Skinner.

The conference will conclude with the final general session from 9 a.m.-12 noon on Feb. 28.

There is no charge for participation in the conference, but preregistration is urged in order to make adequate preparations. Preschool provisions are available only on a preregistration basis.

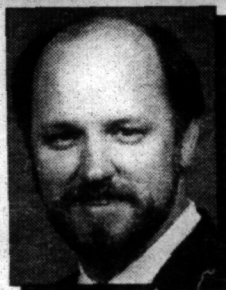
For more information and to preregister, contact Jones Association at 206 South 11th Avenue, Laurel, MS 39440. Telephone: (601) 649-8114.

HOMEcoming

Lynn Ray Road, Petal: Feb. 1; 10th anniversary; lunch will be served in fellowship hall immediately following the worship service.

STAFF CHANGES

Richard Lister of Madison has been called as associate pastor of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, effective Dec. 15. Lister is a graduate of Mississippi College and has served churches in South Carolina and Mississippi.



Lister

Doug White, pastor of First Church, Waynesboro, for eight and one half years has announced his retirement from the pastorate. He has pastored churches in Alabama and Mississippi for the past 46 years. White will be available for supply and interim. His address will be 53 Kate Street, Waynesboro, MS 39376; or phone (601) 735-4407.

Clear Springs Church,

Yalobusha Association, has called Rick Griffin of Bruce as interim pastor effective Dec. 1.

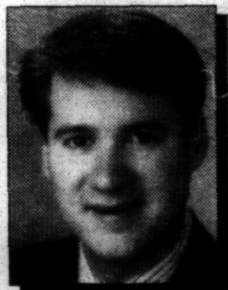
R. Keith Manuel has resigned as pastor of Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, to accept the pastorate of First Church, Bogalusa, La. effective Dec. 7. Manuel, a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary, is currently working toward his doctor of philosophy degree in preaching at New Orleans Seminary.

Dublin Church, Prentiss, has called Charles Guy as pastor effective Dec. 28. A native of Tylertown, Guy received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was New Sardis Church.

First Church, Verona, Lee County, has called Owen Riddick as associate pastor/minister of education effective Jan. 4. He received his

education at Dallas Theological Seminary and Southwestern Seminary. Riddick previously served as pastor of Lake Washington Church, Glen Allan, and First Church, Mathiston.

First Church, Poplarville, has called Marvin H. Miller Jr. as minister of music, effective Jan. 7. Miller previously served at Rawls Springs, Hattiesburg.



Miller

Benny Still, former pastor of Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall, and his wife Wina, minister of music/youth, are available for supply, interim, revivals, staff

positions, entertainment, and banquets. He is interested in preaching, has over 30 years experience in music, and would consider director of missions work. Her expertise is in music/youth, instrumental (organ and piano), music writing/arranging, and she also has a degree in psychology and counseling. They can be contacted at P. O. Box 756, Grand Bay, AL 36541-0756; or call (334) 865-6520.

MS Positions Available

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC for Adult and Youth Choirs. Send resumes to Ronnie Clark, Ruleville Baptist Church, PO Box 187, Ruleville, MS 38771.

RESUMES ARE BEING ACCEPTED by the First Baptist Church of Richton, MS, for the position of Minister of Youth and Education. Resumes may be mailed to: Search Committee, PO Box 562, Richton, MS 39476.

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WANTED: Missionary-minded couple to serve the Lord in a home for children needing a place to live. This is an evangelical organization that has been meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children for 103 years. Compensation includes housing, food, insurance and retirement. This is not a behavior modification facility. Call Mr. Taylor at Palmer Home for Children (601) 328-5216.

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The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

Admit that you are a sinner. There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you. God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord. If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

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ALL PRAISE RISING

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Harmony Church, Union County, recently held a note burning service for the remodeling and enlarging of its sanctuary. It will now seat 300 at a cost of \$145,000. Building Committee member pictured (from left) are Bobby Pickett; Jimmy Dale Baker; chairman; Robert Daniel, pastor; Dale Manning; and Elliot Manning. Not pictured are Billy Metts, Wayne Pannell, and Bozie Jackson.



First Church of Carnes, Lumberton, recently recognized several GAs for completing their Adventure level work. Pictured (front, from left) are Kala Croy, Lacey Walker, Elise Tucker, Ashleigh Spiers, Morghan Moffett; (back) Amber McCardle, Erica Croy, Ashley Sumrall, Jamie Moffett, Jenna Tucker, and Melissa Smith. Leaders are Jean Morris and Elise Sumrall. Bob Gilland is pastor.

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Children's Ministry 3 years thru 7 years

For more information call

(601) 776-2184

Youth Department of New Life Fellowship Church, Jackson, will be hosting "Youth Weekend" beginning Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. with a concert featuring Rust College Gospel Choir. Other activities will include a fashion show. Charles A. Thurman is pastor. For more information, call (601) 362-2911.

Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames, a dramatized real life presentation, will be presented at First Church, Quitman, Feb. 1-3 at 7 p.m. nightly. For more information, call (601) 776-2184.

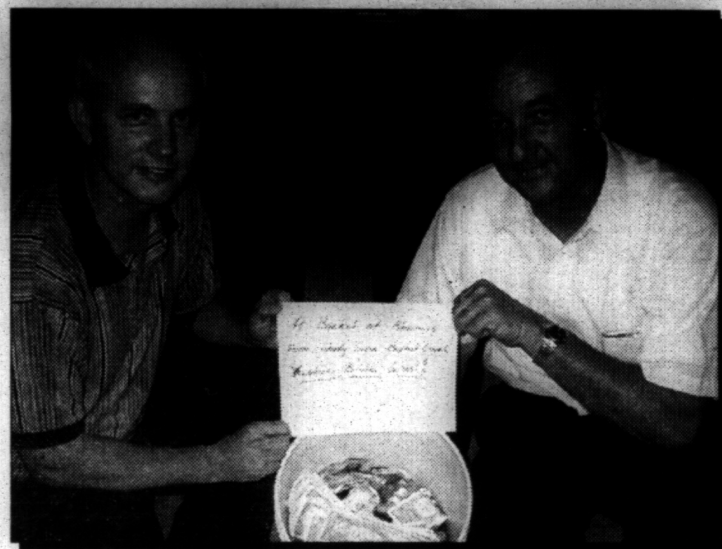


Magnolia Church, Laurel, recently held GA recognition. Those that participated are (from row) Cassidy Collins, Samantha Gibson, Kayla Bradberry, Haley Selman, Heather Craft, Jennifer Gibson, Molly Chandler; (back row) GA leader Cindy Wilson, Mandy Chandler, Candi Ingram, Teresa Sims, Ryann Hoven, Emily Wilson, Stephanie Houston, Savannah Odom, and GA leader Donna Bradberry.

Macedonia Church, Brookhaven, will have a special day honoring Robert Perry, pastor, on his retirement. The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 1. For more information, contact the church at (601) 833-6760.

Wade Church, Pascagoula, will honor its pastor, Bill Barton and his wife Jean, on his fifth anniversary at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 1. This is also Barton's 50th year in the ministry. A reception will immediately follow the worship service in fellowship hall.

Bethel Church, Smith County, will host an open house and homecoming on Feb. 8 beginning at 9 a.m. Special music will be provided by Hosana and the guest speaker will be Tommy Anderson. Johnny Russum is pastor.



Children attending Vacation Bible School at Shady Grove Church, Lucedale, chose to contribute their offering towards a mission trip to Romania for Ronnie and Beverly Cottingham. Others from Mississippi will also embark on this medical/evangelism effort in the rural villages surrounding Brasov, Romania. This trip is being coordinated through the International Mission Board. Ronnie Maxie, pastor, (right) is pictured presenting the bucket of money to Cottingham.

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NAC '98 registration opened for July meet

BIRMINGHAM - Registration opened Jan. 1 for the National Acteens Convention (NAC) which will be held July 1-4 in Louisville, Ky., at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center.

Acteens is the missions organization for girls in grades seven through 12 sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). NAC is held once every four or five years for Acteens members and other girls who have completed the seventh grade. More

than 12,000 teens and their leaders are expected to attend the event.

Registration opened Jan. 1 and will continue until June 15, 1998. Only those who register in advance will be allowed to participate in NAC activities.

NAC 98, which will develop the theme "Inside Out," begins with an evening general session on Wednesday, July 1, and closes on Saturday, July 4, with the morning session. In between, the teens and leaders

will experience on-site and off-site ministry projects, an interactive exhibit area, creative arts performances, meaningful worship experiences and more, all designed to challenge the girls to use their gifts in ministry when they return home.

Other highlights include a StudiAct recognition service and launch of MissionsQuest, the new individual achievement program for Acteens. In addition, participants will enjoy a "NAC Participants Only" spree at the theme park adjacent to the conference site and a concert by recording artist Jaci Velasquez.

NAC registration forms are available in the January issue of Accent, the magazine for Acteens members. Forms can also be obtained from state WMU offices. Questions about special group tours should be directed to state WMU offices.

A registration fee of \$80 per person must accompany all registration forms. The fee includes admission to all NAC sessions and activities, a registration packet and ID, and an official NAC T-shirt.

Additional information may be obtained from state Acteens leaders; by visiting the NAC web site at www.nac98.com; or calling (800) 968-7301.



Top BWA leader calls for end to Cuban boycott

WASHINGTON (BP) — Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba hopefully "will open wide the doors to religious freedom for all Christians," Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), said in a Jan. 21 statement on the Roman Catholic leader's visit to the island nation led by Fidel Castro.

Lotz, in his statement, also voiced hope that the economic boycott of Cuba by the United States will end. "It is my personal feeling that the boycott is not helpful," he said. "It hurts the people who need the most help."

Lotz cited the book, "Fidel and Religion," by Brazilian journalist Frei Betto, in which Castro was quoted as saying, "I'm sure a visit by the Pope would be useful and positive for the Church and for Cuba and I also think it would be useful for the Third World in general."

While the eyes of the world focus on Catholicism in Cuba, Lotz said he wants the world also to know of the faithful witness of Cuban Baptist leaders through their long night of struggle.

With some new freedoms in recent years, baptized believers have more than doubled, to more than 35,000, in the Western and Eastern Baptist conventions, both of which are BWA member bodies.

The numbers are accurate, Lotz said, because "Baptist membership is strict and evidence of rebirth must be publicly acknowledged before the congregation."

The overall Baptist community in Cuba,

including a third BWA member, the

In the last two years, Lotz said, "the prayers and suffering of the Baptist people have resulted in a revival," which has been reported on by many BWA teams visiting Cuba.

Lotz credited the revival partly to the economic hardship in Cuba and a grasping for freedom.

"A certain desperation had set in and people became hopeless," he said.

"No longer were they afraid. There was a feeling the party was a failure. Searching for hope, many people began to visit Baptist churches."

Lotz continued, "Many people had recognized the holy and devoted life of Baptists, their honesty, their compassion, and thus with the new freedom were drawn to Baptist churches."

Among the converts, Lotz said, is Castro's sister who was baptized in the Baptist church in Havana and now lives in Miami.

Cut off from Western help, Cuban Baptist seminaries and Bible schools still were able to train pastors and "raised up an excellent faculty and indigenous ministry," Lotz said.

While the churches and seminaries are growing, they face continued restrictions, especially with buildings and meeting in homes, Lotz said.

Like all others, they suffer from the effects of the embargo, and churches function with little or no materials especially for Sunday Schools and seminary training.

Lotz recounted that after the enthusiasm of the Castro revolution had died down and "the struggle to exist became the name of the game, religion became even more despised by the party and the people."

During this time, "evangelicals, especially Baptists fought and in some cases died for their faith," he said.

"Baptists continued to meet all over the island, sometimes in secret in homes and apartments."

"While there was a certain amount of religious freedom, especially for worship in churches, religious freedom as understood in the West was strictly prohibited."

Throughout this time, the BWA worked to help Baptists get Bibles and gave support and encouragement to the leaders and churches that survived.

Ten years ago, for example, when Lotz visited Cuba as part of a religious delegation, he met Castro, who spoke of his love for the Bible during the conversation.

"Every educated man ought to read the Bible," Lotz quoted Castro as saying.

When Lotz visited students at the Baptist seminary in Havana the next day, they complained they had no Bibles.

After Lotz wrote and received permission from Castro officials, 50,000 Bibles were sent to Cuba.

"What a joy to meet our Cuban Baptist leaders later in the year in the Bahamas who reported joyfully of the permission to grant Bibles," Lotz recalled, noting there is now no problem in importing Bibles into Cuba.

Today, Lotz said the BWA continues to work with its three member bodies in Cuba by sending various worldwide delegations to the island nation.

"On every visit," he said, "the BWA makes an effort to dialogue with Cuban government leaders, expressing our concern for continued growth in religious freedom and seeking permission to give humanitarian aid."

Most recently, Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid, visited Cuba and obtained permission to send humanitarian supplies directly to the Baptist churches there.

Powdered milk is especially needed in Cuba at the present time.

If indeed the visit of Pope John Paul II contributes to more freedom for all believers, and if, like after the fall of the Berlin wall, Cuba does open up completely, Lotz said "the BWA is concerned that we empower and enable Cuban Baptists to carry on their ministry of reconciliation without diluting their message with negative aspects of Western Christianity."

"I would be concerned about an unhealthy flooding of Cuba with well-intentioned evangelists who, because of their lack of understanding of the past 40 years, may do more harm than good to the growth of true evangelism and Christian witness," Lotz said.

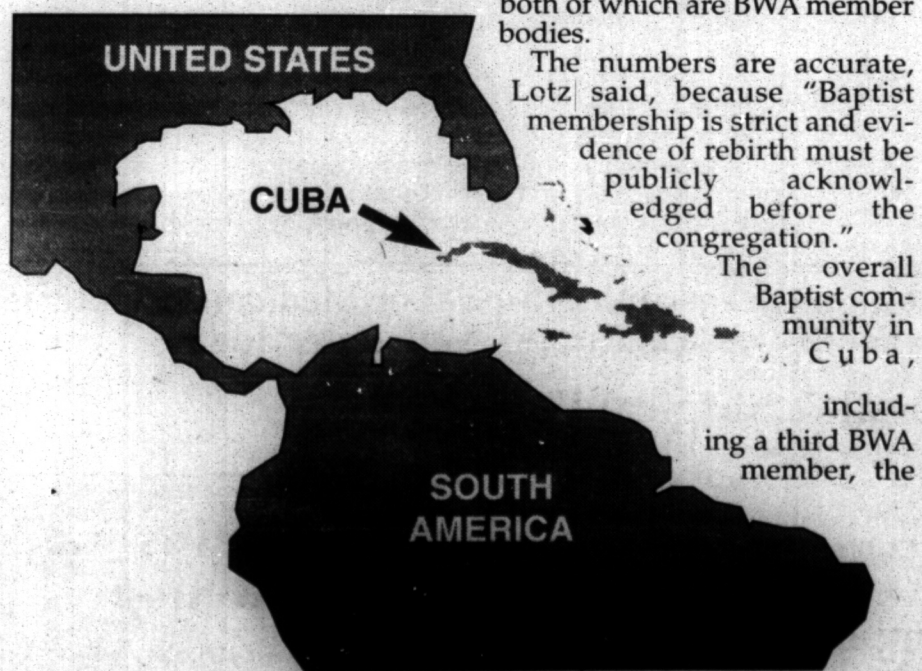
"We must allow Cuban Christians to stand on their own feet and witness in their own context," he said.

"We do this by supporting them in prayer, sending in necessary literature, supporting them with humanitarian help, making a plea for further religious freedom and by encouraging growth in contact."

"The BWA is committed to doing all of this for our brothers and sisters in Cuba."

SuperSummer Clarification

An advertisement on page 10 of the Jan. 22 issue featuring "SuperSummer '98" at Charleston Southern University in South Carolina should not be confused with the separate "SuperSummer Mississippi" July 20-24 at Mississippi College in Clinton. For more information, contact Wes Pegues in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Freewill Baptist Convention, encompasses more than 100,000 worshipers in 400 churches across the island, according to the BWA.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Making progress

2 Peter 1: 3-15

By Debbie Sills

Today's lesson begins a new unit entitled "Believing in Truth." Peter's second letter stresses the importance of growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ. He was writing to remind believers of the treasure they had in Christ and their responsibility to live a godly life. There were many false teachers among them who were luring them towards immorality by justifying their sin. Peter reminds us all that the best defense against these false teachings is spiritual maturity—a maturity that can only be reached through grasping onto the foundational elements in the Christian life.

Thorough Provision (1:3-4).

Many people think living how Christ taught us to live is impossible. Without the power of Christ it is impossible for us to live godly lives. However, with Christ, we have his power and that divine power cannot be defeated. He gives us the things necessary for us to live a godly life. He is generous enough to tell us how to live and then enable us to live that way. Peter had to deal with people who used the grace of God as an excuse for sin. There are many people in our world today that believe the same as these people did in Peter's day. They believe grace spreads wide enough to cover any sin; therefore, sin does not matter. In actuality what



Sills

they are doing is saying they want to sin and will justify their desire to sin any way they can. Jesus tells us he can help us overcome our desire to sin and follow the world's way. We will never be sinless living in this world that is full of sin and temptations, but in the presence of Christ we have a full defense ready.

Personal diligence (1:5-7). Many believers seem to remain spiritual babies. They do not mature beyond a very basic understanding of what being a Christian is all about and they do not produce the fruits Christians should. In verses 5-7, Peter lists several attributes Christians should strive for as they grow spiritually. He reminds believers to be diligent in the pursuit of faith, moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. If we do not transform

profession of being a Christian into practice through these qualities, we become spiritually useless and unable to fulfill our purpose for which we are called. We must remember that being a child of God requires some work on our part. We must study his Word, pray daily, and seek his will for our life. When we do these things, it becomes easier to live a godly life.

Blessed assurance (1:8-11). It is not uncommon for believers to question their salvation. The devil can plant many doubts in a believer's mind. How then can we be assured of our salvation? Peter knew his readers faced this same question and he offered the answer in these verses. If a believer has the qualities mentioned above, he is neither useless nor unfruitful. If one is diligent in his pursuit of spiritual growth and knowledge of his calling, then "the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and

Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you" (v. 11). Believers whose developing spiritual lives produce fruit confirm their salvation to themselves and to others.

Necessary reminder (1:12-15). Peter felt his letter of reminder was very important to his readers. He admits the things he was writing to them were things they already knew. Sometimes we tire of hearing the same message over and over again, but that does not mean it is unnecessary. Peter considered it his duty to remind them of the truths they already knew. We all need reminders now and then. The truths we know and believe must not remain dormant. It was Peter's hope that those reminders would not be a boring lesson. Instead let them rejuvenate our desire to mature in Christ.

Sills is advertising coordinator for The Baptist Record.

LIFE AND WORK

Friendship love

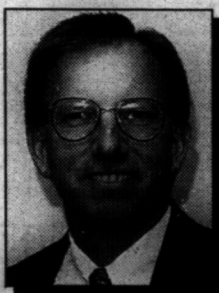
1 Sam. 20:4-8, 13-17, 31-34, 42

By Don Lum

We need each other! One of the things our busy lifestyle sometimes takes from us is close friendships. As you study the friendship of David and Jonathan this week, think about your own life. Are you open to other people? Do you have someone you can count on? God uses friends many times to make us stronger and more useful to his kingdom. He also uses Christian friends as his voice and his hands and his feet to minister to us. While on earth, Jesus gave us the model of having close relationships with others.

Friendship love is quick to help (20:4-8). As we begin, we need to understand a few

things about these two young men. David and Jonathan had a unique friendship. Jonathan's father, King Saul, was jealous of David and was trying to kill him. Jonathan knew Saul's attitude was motivated by envy and that David had never betrayed his father. Jonathan was also the heir to the throne, but David was his friend. Read about the covenant that David and Jonathan made with each other in 1 Samuel 18:1-4. Jonathan knew God had chosen David and was prepared to be second in the kingdom to him (1 Samuel 23:17). In verse 4, David was trying to find out how Saul felt about him and he



Lum

asked Jonathan for help, which he willingly gave.

People need relationships like these in their lives. Too often the attitude in our society is that I can make it alone, I am self-sufficient. This is another lie of the devil which Christians too often believe. Paul says we are to carry each other's overload (Galatians 6:2). There is much New Testament instruction as to how we are to treat each other in friendships. Too many struggle alone because they won't allow themselves to ask for help. The body of Christ is to present Christ to the world as we love and support each other.

Friendship love is loyal (20:13-17). Jonathan loved David as he loved himself and he was determined to stand by David no matter what. Loyalty means I believe in you and you can count on me. We are going to talk about several kinds of love

this February, the designated love month, but loyalty is always a characteristic of real love. Friendship is a commitment that requires being there for someone. My friends need to know that they are safe with me. I will support them whether they are present with me or not.

Friendship love is empathetic (20:31-34). In this passage Saul tries to kill his own son because of Jonathan's relationship with David. But Jonathan never waivers from his loyalty to his friend. He feels grieved because his friend is mistreated and hated. Love between friends does feel each other's pain. Sometimes there is not anything to do, but we can be there and cry or laugh together. It is a remarkable thing that sharing pain lessens it and sharing joy broadens it. God's plan for us is so good. We do need each other and we need to know each other so well that we can feel what our friend is feeling.

Friendship love is a lasting commitment (20:42). They cried together as they said good-bye. They gave each other into God's care and they never saw each other again. Their friendship never faltered through very difficult circumstances and God had this recorded for us to see what we can be for each other. In 1998, America, you will probably not be forced to make the difficult decision that Jonathan and David had to make. You are free and able to make strong lasting friendships. Your life will be enriched as you choose to do that. We have taught our children that if they want to have a friend, they must be a friend. This year let's follow our own advice and take the time to make a friend or build on the friendships we have. Don't forget, WE DO NEED EACH OTHER!

Lum is a consultant in the Miss. Baptist Evangelism Dept.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Resisting sexual temptation

Genesis 39:7-21

By Edna Martin Ellison

Last week we left Joseph as a slave after his brothers had sold him to traders traveling to Egypt. Though he entered Egypt with an uncertain future, Joseph soon became the trusted personal servant of a powerful master, Potiphar. Joseph faced a dangerous challenge, however, when Potiphar's wife was sexually attracted to him.

A boldly presented temptation (v. 7). Joseph was a good-looking man. Verse 6 tells us he was handsome in form and appearance (well built, with an attractive face). Potiphar's wife chose a brazen way to approach him: she "looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, 'Lie with

me'" (NASB).

A godly response (vv. 8-10). A godly man, Joseph knew he could respond only one way: basing his life on godly principles and values, he refused. He explained to Potiphar's wife that he couldn't betray the trust Potiphar had placed in him (v. 8-9). Remember that Joseph was the *major domo* (chief servant) of the house, second in command only to Potiphar. Potiphar had trusted him with all his possessions. Notice in verse 9 that Joseph felt if he succumbed to temptation he would sin against God, not just against Potiphar and his wife. Potiphar's brazen wife refused to take "no" for an answer. Though she pursued



Ellison

him "day by day," (v. 10), Joseph triumphed over the temptation: "he did not listen to her to lie beside her or be with her."

Sometimes power corrupts. Joseph had risen to a powerful position from the status of a slave. He must have possessed tremendous strength of character to resist the provocative advances of this wealthy woman. Power definitely did not corrupt Joseph! Benjamin Franklin said, "If you do not stand for something, you'll fall for anything." Joseph stood for righteousness under the power of God, and that righteousness prevented him from falling into Potiphar's wife's trap.

A resistance of sexual assault (vv. 11-12). Joseph continued his everyday routine, ignoring Potiphar's wife. Then one day she saw her chance when no one was at home except Joseph, who working (v.

11). Seizing the opportunity, she grabbed Joseph by his clothes (probably a cotton tunic), demanding a sexual encounter. It was the moment of truth. Was Joseph tempted? No one was around. It was his chance to appease her and make his life easier.

Joseph was equal to the challenge. Like most godly men and women, he had made up his mind long before the temptation. He did not hesitate. Though she tore his clothes off, he slipped out of the garment, and ran outside (v. 12).

An effort to get even (vv. 13-18). The woman scorned was furious (v. 13). Potiphar's wife called other servants and told them Joseph had attempted to rape her, yet she fought him off, screaming for help and grabbing his tunic as he ran (vv. 14-15). Then she set the ultimate trap: she saved the tunic to show Potiphar (v. 16). When he came home, she told him the

same story she had told the servants (vv. 17).

God's protection of one who is faithful (vv. 19-21). I imagine Potiphar could not believe it! His faithful servant, Joseph, the one he had trusted over all others, had tried to rape his wife. How could Joseph, the honest, trustworthy Jewish servant, fail his good moral principles? However, Potiphar had to exercise justice; therefore, he placed Joseph in prison (v. 20).

As we close our study, we leave Joseph in a bad situation, just as we did last week. His faith had been tested in several dangerous situations, yet God had provided strength. Verse 21 records, "The Lord was with Joseph, and showed him mercy, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison." God offered protection to his faithful one.

Ellison is a consultant in the Miss. Woman's Missionary Union.

Families fighting on-line Internet predators



STOCKTON, Calif. (BP) — Cynthia Rea thought her child was safe. The family attended Covenant Christian Fellowship in Manteca, Calif. They home schooled their 16-year-old daughter, and the girl was an honor student.

Then they got a computer and a connection to the Internet.

The family used no filtering software. Rea's daughter, Jamie, found a local chat room. A 30-year-old pedophile found the girl.

The man convinced Rea's daughter to leave home at night for meetings. The girl got sexually involved.

"The day she turned 17 they

planned to run off and get married," Rea said.

She even sent the girl to live with other relatives in an attempt to break up the relationship. Rea's daughter responded with slashed wrists and treatment in a psychiatric hospital.

"I don't know if my child will ever be normal again," Rea said, lamenting, "Our children are being stolen from our homes."

"The biggest problem facing parents now is not knowing what to do," explained Colin Hatcher with Cyber Angels, an on-line safety organization.

"People call the Internet the schoolyard of the 21st century," Hatcher stated. "Distance means nothing."

Software can help, such as

"Cybersitter," a filtering program that blocks openly gay and lesbian sites.

Patty Cartwright, meanwhile, used technology to fight back. She's a mother in Federal Way, Wash., whose son was molested by a friend of the family when he was 12 years old.

Police arrested the suspect but they lacked evidence for a conviction. So, Cartwright got a computer and learned that the man used America Online to find other victims.

She got the same service and decided to pose as a young gay man in an effort to provide police with more evidence.

"I found out where he was," she recounted. America Online has a "Buddy List" feature to contact other AOL members, and Cartwright did that with the man's screen name.

"He said 'hi' first," she recounted. They traded information like age and hair color.

"He wanted to have sex," Cartwright said. "He kept wanting me to call him."

She called the police instead. They encouraged her to continue and set up a meeting. The man went with the intentions

of finding a young boy.

Undercover police arrested him at a mall, and he is now serving an eight-year, three-month sentence.

He was already on probation for receiving child pornography through the mail.

"(He) also volunteered as a 'big brother'-type person," Cartwright said. "There must be more victims."

Her son still suffers from psychological problems and Cartwright continues to trap other child predators.

"As a mother, you would do anything" to fight against a child's abuse, she said.

Parents have several options when they suspect a child predator.

□ Call your local police or the FBI.

□ Save all correspondence. It can be used as evidence.

□ Check with your local service provider for protection. America Online has parental controls that allows subscribers to block e-mail, chat rooms, and instant messages.

On the Internet, on-line help is available from Safeguarding Our Children-United Mothers at <http://www.soc-um.org>.

'KidTrek' plans expansion to attract young 'Net users

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Though the latest addition to the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's (BSSB) Internet site is currently targeted to children's workers, it eventually will include features designed to attract children themselves.

KidTrek, located on the Internet's World Wide Web at www.bbssb.com/kidtrek, went live Jan. 13 and already includes information about Sunday School, Bible study, Vacation Bible School, devotional, and leisure-reading materials produced by the children's biblical studies section in the BSSB's Bible teaching-reaching division.

In addition, the new area features three special sections:

1) ParentSource — a biweekly article for parents, a monthly feature article from ParentLife magazine, and helps for leading a child to Christ.

2) Sunday School Worker's Warehouse — articles and resources for children's division directors and other children's workers, information about upcoming conferences for children's workers and Bible Searchers Extra!, supplemental ideas for teachers leading fifth- and sixth-graders using the Life and Work Sunday School lessons.

3) Kids Korner, which is currently under construction, but eventually will feature games, learning activities based on Sunday School lessons, and stories and games from More, Adventure, and Bible Express periodicals.

"We want to offer a practical and relevant website that meets the needs both of children's workers, parents, and the kids themselves," KidTrek coordinator Kenny Adams said. "Our hope is that it will become an

interactive site that enhances Bible learning for children and helps them mature in their understanding of Christ and their love for him."

Bibliocipher

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SZC XR X MH SZC YKIYS-
KI S YBSLI RHK WHT, X
GXBB LHJI SMSXZ, SZC
KILIXEI WHT TZPH JWN-
BR; POSP GOIKI X SJ,
POIKI WI JSW DI SBNH.

UHOZ RHTKPIIZ: POKII

Clue: G = W

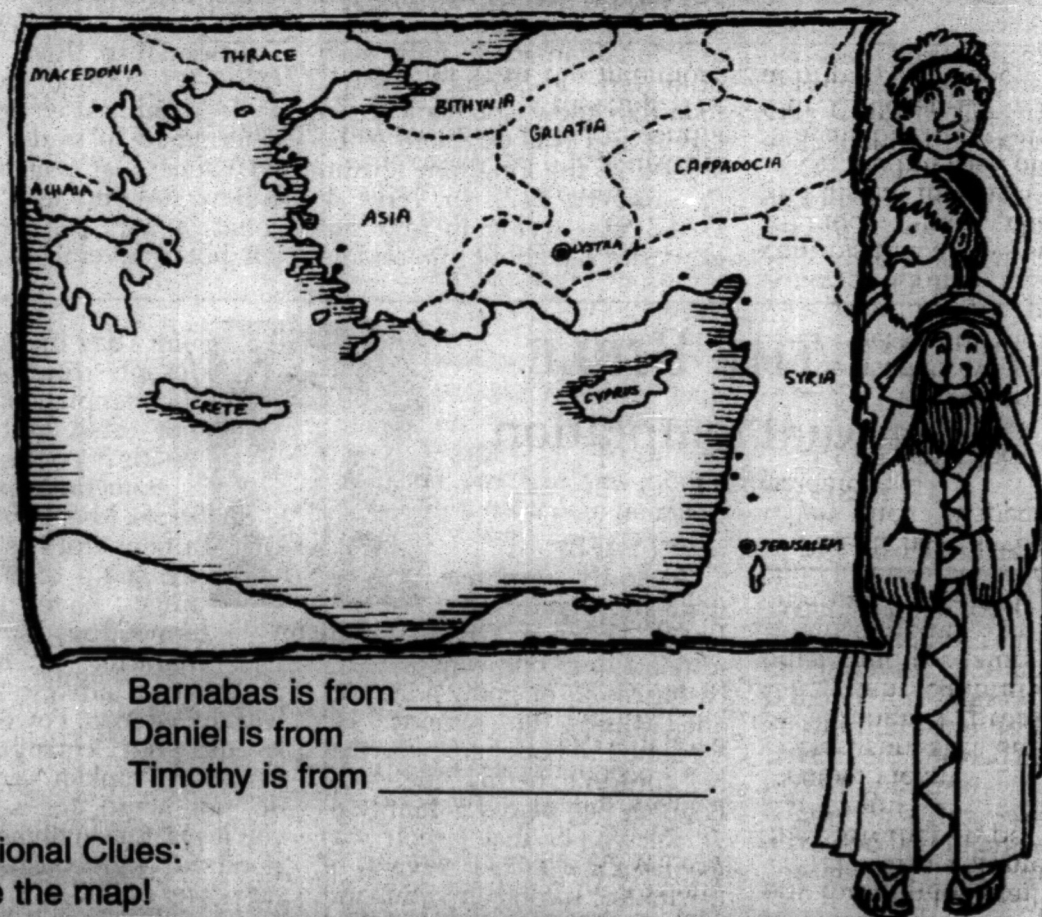
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Six: Forty-Four.

WHOSE HOMETOWN?

Barnabas, Daniel, and Timothy are from three different towns. One is from Jerusalem, one is from Cyprus, and one is from Lystra.

- Barnabas is not from Lystra.
- Daniel is not from Lystra.
- Daniel is not from Cyprus.
- Barnabas grew up on an island.
- Timothy is not from Jerusalem

Given these clues, can you discover the hometown of each man?



Barnabas is from _____
Daniel is from _____
Timothy is from _____

Additional Clues:

- * Use the map!
- * If you're stumped, read Acts 4:36; Daniel 1:1, 3, 6; and Acts 16:1.

Source: *Solving Bible Mysteries* by Joy MacKenzie. (Zondervan, 1994), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.